

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative  
(MRBI)

Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative

## OBION RIVER WATERSHED

Starting in October 2011 the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) is now available in an additional ten tributary subwatersheds to the original three tributary subwatersheds of the Obion River Watershed; North Reelfoot Creek (080102020401), South Reelfoot Creek (080102020402), and Reeds Creek (080102020308).

The additional 10 subwatersheds include Cypress Creek (080102020201), Harris Fork Creek (080102020206), Houser Creek (080102020205), Little Cypress Creek (080102020207), North Fork Obion River (080102020107), North Fork Obion River Headwaters (080102020102), North Fork Obion River-Stephens Creek (080102020203), North Fork Obion River Outlet (080102020208), Richland Creek (080102020204), and Richland Creek (080102020305).

This cost share program is available specifically to provide water quality improvements to surface runoff within these target subwatersheds. Higher funding is available for certain conservation practices that effectively filter surface runoff.

The program is a four year funding program from 2010 through 2013.

To be eligible to participate in the program, the majority of the farm must lie within the designated subwatershed, and at least one field within the subwatershed must be enrolled for practice application. Once this land eligibility criteria is met, the entire farm is eligible to apply for practice installation under this program.

### Eligible Counties

Obion County

Dyer County

Gibson County

Henry County

Weakley County

### Eligible Practices (Practice Code / Life span)

Access Control (472 / 10 yr)  
Animal Mortality Facility (incinerator)(316/ 15 yr)  
Composting Facility (317 / 15 yr)  
Conservation Crop Rotation (328 / 1 yr)  
Cover Crop (340 / 1 yr)  
Critical Area Planting (342 / 10 yr)  
Dike (356 / 20 yr)  
Diversion (362 / 10 yr)  
Fence (382 / 20 yr)  
Grade Stabilization Structure (410 / 15 yr)  
Grassed Waterway (412 / 10 yr)  
Heavy Use Area Protection (561 / 10 yr)  
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447 / 15 yr)  
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline (430 / 20 yr)  
Irrigation Water Management (449 / 1 yr)  
Mulching (484 / 1 yr)  
Nutrient Management (590 / 1 yr)  
Pasture and Hayland Planting (512 / 10 yr)  
Prescribed Grazing (528 / 1 yr)

Pumping Plant (533 / 15 yr)  
Roof Runoff Structure (558 / 15 yr)  
Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632 / 15 yr)  
Structure for Water Control (587 / 20 yr)  
Terrace (600 / 10 yr)  
Tree and Shrub Establishment (612 / 15 yr)  
Tree and Shrub Site Preparation (490 / 1 yr)  
Underground Outlet (620 / 20 yr)  
Waste Storage Facility (313 / 15 yr)  
Water and Sediment Control Basin (638 / 10 yr)  
Wetland Restoration (657 / 15 yr)

### SPECIAL BUFFER PRACTICES

Contour Buffer Strips (332 / 10 yr)  
Field Border (386 / 10 yr)  
Filter Strip (393 / 10 yr)  
Riparian Forest Buffer (391/ 15 yr)  
Riparian Herbaceous Buffer (390 / 10 yr)

## *MRBI CCPI*

### Contract Requirements

- Practices must be started within 12 months of contract approval.
- Contract length 2-10 years. At least 1 year of operation/maintenance required after the last practice installed.
- Participant agrees to maintain the established cover for the life of the practice.

### Eligible Payments

- MRBI is funded through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), which provides 75% of the state average cost for the installation of eligible practices for most participants, or 90% of the state average cost for eligible "limited resource", "beginning", or "socially disadvantaged farmers".
- NRCS payments are based on the MRBI "Payment Schedule" in place at contract approval.
- The 5 **SPECIAL BUFFER PRACTICES** listed above have significant cost share included within the payment as FOREGONE INCOME. Foregone income is the estimated average annual loss of crop revenue as a result of converting the buffer acreage from crops to non-crop covers for the life span of the buffer practice. Estimated annual crop revenue losses were calculated based on an average rate of return for the major row crops less the average pasture rental rate as compensation for potential haying returns (grassland buffers). The annual FOREGONE INCOME for each year of the life of the practice is included as a lump sum in the first year establishment cost of the practice. MRBI payment rates are available at the appropriate NRCS county office.
- Additional INCENTIVE PAYMENTS may be available from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

### Additional Incentive Payments

Additional Incentive Payments may be available from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) for practices NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (590) and RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER (391). Additional incentive payments will specifically target newly establishing precision agriculture technology with crop producers, or routine soil testing for either crop producers or livestock producers practicing prescribed grazing. The amounts of these incentive payments for approved treatments have not been determined. Because limited funds are available from the TDA, incentive payment rates will be determined based on the amount of sign-up and participation. These incentive payment rates may be adjusted up or down based on the amount of program participation from year to year.

### Approved Covers

Approved covers to be established will be any plant material allowed under the applicable NRCS conservation practice standard that meets the objective of the landowner. All approved vegetative covers established under cost share must be effective for removing nutrients and sediment from surface runoff based on the type of practice and site conditions. Wildlife friendly covers are not required, but are available to meet landowner objectives.

### Sign Up

The initial sign up for the program began July 9, 2010. Sign up is continuous. Interested landowners may sign up by visiting the local NRCS Field Office (USDA Service Center) in the county where the eligible farm is located and signing a NRCS-CPA-1200 application form. TDA incentive payments are also applied for at the local NRCS office.

Cost share funds are limited each year, so applicants will be ranked and compete for funding. As a result, there may be multiple funding periods each year. Any applicant that is not funded during the year will be notified and encouraged to re-apply the next year. The ranking process includes higher scoring for applicants willing to apply Nutrient Management, any of the Special Buffer Practices, or conversion of cropland to permanent grasses or trees.

**USDA cost share program participants must comply with contract requirements.** This job sheet may not meet contract requirements. Other job sheets are available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. For additional information, contact your local USDA Service Center, Natural Resources Conservation Service office or your local County Soil Conservation District office. "The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."